paperboard and increase or decrease in production is as under:

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Quantum of Production	Increase or decrease as compared to the corresponding period in previous year
1985-86	15.16	(+) 1.37
1986-87 (Provl.)	15.85	(+) 0.69
1987-88 (Target)	16.50	(+) 0.65

(c) The demand for paper and paperboard which was 14 lakh tonnes in 1984-85 is expected to increase to 18 lakh tonnes by 1989-90.

(d) Only certain special varieties of paper which are not available indigenously in adequate measure is being imported. The provisional figures of import of such paper in the last two years is as follows:—

Year	Import (in lakh tonnes)
1985-86	0.14
1986-87	0.51

Second refinery in Assam

11. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in rsepect of the second refinery in Assam as per provisions of the Assam accord in 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Assam Government had engaged Engineers India Ltd. for preparation of a pre-invesment feasibility report for setting up of a refinery under the Assam Accord. Engineers India Ltd. have since submitted the report to Assam Government, who are to take further action in this rgard.

Flaring of natural gas

12. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of natural gas that was flared during the last 3 years;

(b) whether there has been any increase or decrease in the flaring of gas; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Government to minimise this waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) About 9000 MCM of gas was flared during the last three years. This loss, at a value of Rs. 1 lakh/MCM works out to Rs. 90 crores.

(b) The quantity of gas flared (as a percentage of production) had decreased over the past three years.